

REMARKS

The specification has been amended to correct two minor typographical errors. Various claims* have been amended to correct various minor typographical errors.

(These Remarks are followed by an Appendix showing how the specification and claims have been amended.) Other claims** are also pending in the case.

Applicants respectfully submit that this application, as amended, is in condition for allowance. An early and favorable action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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* Claims 1, 4, 8-11, 13, 15-18, 21, 25-28, 30, 32-35, 38, 42-45, 47, 49-51, 53-55, 59, 60, 63-65, 69, 70, 74, 75, 79, 80, 82, 87, 98, 100, 102, 103, 107, 115-121, and 123-125.

** Claims 2-3, 5-7, 12, 14, 19, 20, 22-24, 29, 31, 36, 37, 39-41, 46, 48, 52, 56-58, 61, 62, 66-68, 71-73, 76-78, 81, 83-86, 88-97, 99, 101, 104-106, 108-114, 122, and 126.

APPENDIX
(Marked-Up Versions of the Specification
and Various Claims* Pursuant to Rule 121(c))

In the Specification

Please replace the paragraph that begins at page 4, line 28 and ends at page 5, line 18 with the following amended version of that paragraph:

Non-program-guide applications may provide interactive content in the form of an interactive component that is associated with [a] television programming (e.g., a given television program, a television channel, or the like). For example, a non-program-guide application may provide interactive sports content for a sports channel or interactive home shopping content for a home shopping channel. The interactive content may be in the form of a shopping experience, information services, games, or any other type of suitable interactive content associated with a given television channel, service, program, program type, or program listings. A non-program-guide application that provides an interactive component for a given channel may be delivered to a user's set-top box along with video and audio programming. The interactive television program guide

* Claims 1, 4, 8-11, 13, 15-18, 21, 25-28, 30, 32-35, 38, 42-45, 47, 49-51, 53-55, 59, 60, 63-65, 69, 70, 74, 75, 79, 80, 82, 87, 98, 100, 102, 103, 107, 115-121, and 123-125.

application may alert the user to the presence of the interactive component. One suitable indicator is an icon that may be presented as a overlay on top of the current television channel. Another suitable indicator is an icon or other display element that may be provided as part of a program guide display screen.

Please replace the paragraph that begins at page 16, line 18 and ends at page 16, line 26 with the following amended version of that paragraph:

Videocassette recorder 48 may pass television programming from television distribution facility 36, display screens generated by set-top box 44, or video signals generated by playing a videocassette to television 52 via communications path 54. The user may view television programming and display screens on television 52 and may use television 52 (or an auxiliary audio system) to listen [listed] to music channels or other audio programs.

In the Claims

1. (Amended) An interactive television program guide system in which an interactive television program guide application is at least partially implemented on user television equipment of a user, comprising:

means for implementing a non-program-guide application that provides an interactive component for television programming;

means for providing a program guide application program interface that allows the interactive television program guide application to provide the user with access to the non-program-guide application; and

means for launching the non-program-guide application with the interactive television program guide application when the user desires to access the interactive component.

4. (Amended) The system defined in claim 3 further comprising means for displaying the video-on-demand program listings in a list of program listings displayed on the user television [program guide] equipment by the interactive television program guide application.

8. (Amended) The system defined in claim 7 wherein the hot link relates to a web browser application, the system comprising:

means for launching the web browser application from the interactive television program guide application; and

means for directing the web browser application to access a web page with content related to the content of the interactive television program guide application.

9. (Amended) The system defined in claim 7 wherein the hot link relates to an electronic mail application, the system comprising:

means for launching the electronic mail application from the interactive television program guide application; and

means for directing the electronic mail application to address electronic mail to an address related to the content of the interactive television program guide application.

10. (Amended) The system defined in claim 7 wherein the hot link relates to a home shopping application, the system comprising:

means for launching the home shopping application from the interactive television program guide application; and

means for directing the home shopping application to present products related to the content of the interactive television program guide application.

11. (Amended) The system defined in claim 7 wherein the hot link relates to a chat application, the system comprising:

means for launching the chat application from the interactive television program guide application; and

means for directing the chat application to perform functions based on the content of the interactive television program guide application.

13. (Amended) The system defined in claim 1 wherein there are a plurality of non-program-guide applications and wherein the program guide application program interface further comprises means for coordinating access to platform resources among the interactive television program guide application and the non-program-guide applications.

15. (Amended) The system defined in claim 1 wherein the interactive television program guide application is also partially implemented on [the] a server.

16. (Amended) The system defined in claim 1 wherein the interactive television program guide application is implemented only on the user television equipment.

17. (Amended) The system defined in claim 1 further comprising means for embedding non-program-guide application content in a program guide display screen provided by the interactive television program guide application.

18. (Amended) A method for using an interactive television program guide system in which an interactive television program guide application is at least partially implemented on user television equipment of a user, comprising:

implementing a non-program-guide application that provides an interactive component for television programming;

providing a program guide application program interface that allows the interactive television program guide application to provide the user with access to the non-program-guide application; and

launching the non-program-guide application with the interactive television program guide application when the user desires to access the interactive component.

21. (Amended) The method defined in claim 20 further comprising displaying the video-on-demand program listings in a list of program listings displayed on the user

television [program guide] equipment by the interactive television program guide application.

25. (Amended) The method defined in claim 24 wherein the hot link relates to a web browser application, the method further comprising:

launching the web browser application from the interactive television program guide application; and

directing the web browser application to access a web page with content related to the content of the interactive television program guide application.

26. (Amended) The method defined in claim 24 wherein the hot link relates to an electronic mail application, the method comprising:

launching the electronic mail application from the interactive television program guide application; and

directing the electronic mail application to address electronic mail to an address related to the content of the interactive television program guide application.

27. (Amended) The method defined in claim 24 wherein the hot link relates to a home shopping application, the method comprising:

launching the home shopping application from the interactive television program guide application; and directing the home shopping application to present products related to the content of the interactive television program guide application.

28. (Amended) The method defined in claim 24 wherein the hot link relates to a chat application, the method comprising:

launching the chat application from the interactive television program guide application; and directing the chat application to perform functions based on the content of the interactive television program guide application.

30. (Amended) The method defined in claim 18 wherein there are a plurality of non-program-guide applications and wherein the method further comprises using the program guide application program interface to coordinate access to platform resources by the interactive television program guide application and the non-program-guide applications.

32. (Amended) The method defined in claim 18 wherein the interactive television program guide application is also partially implemented on [the] a server.

33. (Amended) The method defined in claim 18 wherein the interactive television program guide application is implemented only on the user television equipment.

34. (Amended) The method defined in claim 18 further comprising embedding non-program-guide application content in a program guide display screen provided by the interactive television program guide application.

35. (Amended) An interactive television program guide system comprising:

user television equipment on which an interactive television program guide application and a non-program-guide application that provides an interactive component for television programming are at least partially implemented, the interactive television program guide application having a program guide application program interface that allows the interactive television program guide application to provide the user with access to the non-program-guide application, wherein the interactive television program guide application launches the non-program-guide

application when the user desires to access the interactive component.

38. (Amended) The system defined in claim 37 wherein the interactive television program guide application displays the video-on-demand program listings in a list of program listings on the user television [program guide] equipment.

42. (Amended) The system defined in claim 41 wherein:

the hot link relates to a web browser application;

the web browser application is launched from the interactive television program guide application; and

the web browser application is directed to access a web page with content related to the content of the interactive television program guide application when the web browser application is launched.

43. (Amended) The system defined in claim 41 wherein:

the hot link relates to an electronic mail application;

the electronic mail application is launched from the interactive television program guide application; and

the electronic mail application is directed to address electronic mail to an address related to the content of the interactive television program guide application when the electronic mail application is launched.

44. (Amended) The system defined in claim 41 wherein:

the hot link relates to a home shopping application;

the home shopping application is launched from the interactive television program guide application; and

the home shopping application is directed to present products related to the interactive television program guide application when the home shopping application is launched.

45. (Amended) The system defined in claim 41 wherein:

the hot link relates to a chat application;

the chat application is launched from the interactive television program guide application; and

the chat application is directed to perform functions related to the content of the interactive television program guide application when the chat application is launched.

47. (Amended) The system defined in claim 35 wherein there are a plurality of non-program-guide applications and wherein the program guide application program interface coordinates access to platform resources among the interactive television program guide application and the non-program-guide applications.

49. (Amended) The system defined in claim 35 wherein the interactive television program guide application is also partially implemented on [the] a server.

50. (Amended) The system defined in claim 35 wherein the interactive television program guide application is implemented only on the user television equipment.

51. (Amended) The system defined in claim 35 wherein the interactive television program guide application embeds non-program-guide application content in at least one program guide display screen.

53. (Amended) The system defined in claim 52 further comprising:

means for implementing an interactive television program guide application; and

means for providing a program guide application program interface that allows the interactive television program guide application to provide the user with access to the non-program-guide applications.

54. (Amended) The system defined in claim 52 further comprising:

means for implementing an interactive television program guide application that has a number of program guide resources; and

means for providing a program guide application program interface that allows the non-program guide applications to access the program guide resources.

55. (Amended) The system defined in claim 52 further comprising:

means for providing a plurality of platform resources; and

means for providing a program guide application program interface that allows the non-program guide applications to access the platform resources.

59. (Amended) The method defined in claim 57 further comprising:

implementing an interactive television program guide application that has a number of program guide resources; and

providing a program guide application program interface that allows the non-program-guide applications to access the program guide resources.

60. (Amended) The method defined in claim 57 further comprising:

providing a plurality of platform resources; and

providing a program guide application program interface that allows the non-program-guide applications to access the platform resources.

63. (Amended) The system defined in claim 62 wherein an interactive television program guide is implemented at least partially on the user television equipment, the system further comprising a program guide application program interface that allows the interactive television program guide application to provide the user with access to the non-program-guide applications.

64. (Amended) The system defined in claim 62 wherein an interactive television program guide application that has a number of program guide resources is implemented at least partially on the user television equipment, the system further comprising a program guide application program interface that allows the non-program guide applications to access the program guide resources.

65. (Amended) The system defined in claim 62 further comprising:
a plurality of platform resources; and
a program guide application program interface that allows the non-program-guide applications to access the platform resources.

69. (Amended) The system defined in claim 67 further comprising:
means for implementing an interactive television program guide application that has a number of program guide resources; and
means for providing a program guide application program interface that allows the non-program-guide applications to access the program guide resources.

70. (Amended) The system defined in claim 67 further comprising:

means for providing a plurality of platform resources; and

means for providing a program guide application program interface that allows the non-program-guide applications to access the platform resources.

74. (Amended) The method defined in claim 72 further comprising:

implementing an interactive television program guide application that has a number of program guide resources; and

providing a program guide application program interface that allows the non-program-guide applications to access the program guide resources.

75. (Amended) The method defined in claim 72 further comprising:

providing a plurality of platform resources; and

providing a program guide application program interface that allows the non-program-guide applications to access the platform resources.

79. (Amended) The system defined in claim 77 wherein an interactive television program guide application that has a number of program guide resources is implemented at least partially on the user television equipment, the system further comprising a program guide application program interface that allows the non-program-guide applications to access the program guide resources.

80. (Amended) The system defined in claim 77 further comprising:

- a plurality of platform resources; and
- a program guide application program interface that allows the non-program guide applications to access the platform resources.

82. (Amended) An interactive television program guide system having user television equipment [of a user], comprising:

- an interactive television program guide application implemented at least partially on the user television equipment;
- a plurality of non-program-guide applications implemented at least partially on the user television equipment, wherein one application from among the interactive television program guide application and plurality of non-

program-guide applications operates as a foreground application and another application from among the interactive television program guide application and plurality of non-program-guide applications operates as a background application;

means for allowing the foreground application to operate while the background application operates;

means for checking for events that require immediate attention by the background application while the foreground application operates;

means for suspending the operation of the foreground application when one of the events that requires immediate attention is detected; and

means for displaying a message on the user television equipment when operation of the foreground application is suspended asking the user whether the detected event should take place or whether operation of the given foreground application should be resumed.

87. (Amended) A method for using an interactive television program guide system having user television equipment [of a user], comprising:

implementing an interactive television program guide application at least partially on the user television equipment;

implementing a plurality of non-program-guide applications at least partially on the user television equipment, wherein one application from among the interactive television program guide application and plurality of non-program-guide applications operates as a foreground application and another application from among the interactive television program guide application and plurality of non-program-guide applications operates as a background application;

allowing the foreground application to operate while the background application operates;

checking for events that require immediate attention by the background application while the foreground application operates;

suspending the operation of the foreground application when one of the events that requires immediate attention is detected; and

displaying a message on the user television equipment when operation of the foreground application is suspended asking the user whether the detected event should take place or whether operation of the given foreground application should be resumed.

98. (Amended) The system defined in claim 97 further comprising:

means for implementing an interactive television program guide application at least partially on the user television equipment[;], wherein content associated with the interactive television program guide application is displayed on the user television equipment; and

means for providing the user with an opportunity to set reminders for the content associated with the interactive television program guide application.

100. (Amended) The system defined in claim 99 wherein an interactive television program guide application is at least partially implemented on the user television equipment, wherein content associated with the interactive television program guide application is displayed on the user television equipment, and wherein the user is provided with an opportunity to set reminders for the content associated with the interactive television program guide application.

102. (Amended) The method defined in claim 101 further comprising:

implementing an interactive television program guide application at least partially on the user television equipment[;], wherein content associated with the interactive television program guide application is displayed on the user television equipment; and

providing the user with an opportunity to set reminders for the content associated with the interactive television program guide application.

103. (Amended) A system comprising:

a television distribution facility having a server on which at least one non-program-guide application is implemented;

user television equipment that receives television programming from the television distribution facility and that has resources and on which [an] a program guide application program interface is at least partially implemented and on which an interactive television program guide application is at least partially implemented; and

means for using the program guide application program interface to coordinate access to the resources among the interactive television program guide application and the at least one non-program-guide application.

107. (Amended) A method for using a system having a[a] television distribution facility having a server on which at least one non-program-guide application is implemented and having user television equipment connected to the television distribution facility for receiving television programming, comprising:

implementing [an] a program guide application program interface and an interactive television program guide application at least partially on the user television equipment; and

using the application program interface to coordinate access to the resources among the interactive television program guide application and the at least one non-program-guide application.

115. (Amended) An interactive television program guide system having user television equipment, comprising:

means for implementing an interactive television program guide application at least partially on the user television equipment;

means for implementing a plurality of non-program-guide applications at least partially on the user television equipment, wherein the interactive television program guide application and non-program-guide [application] applications have resources;

means for implementing [an] a program guide application program interface at least partially on the user television equipment; and

means for using the application program interface to authenticate requests from the applications to use the resources.

116. (Amended) The system defined in claim 115 further comprising means for determining access rights for the non-program-guide applications with the program guide application program interface.

117. (Amended) A method for using an interactive television program guide system having user television equipment, comprising:

implementing an interactive television program guide application at least partially on the user television equipment;

implementing a plurality of non-program-guide applications at least partially on the user television equipment, wherein the interactive television program guide application and non-program-guide [application] applications have resources;

implementing [an] a program guide application program interface at least partially on the user television equipment; and

using the application program interface to authenticate requests from the non-program-guide applications to use the resources.

118. (Amended) The method defined in claim 117 further comprising determining access rights for the non-

program-guide applications with the program guide application program interface.

119. (Amended) An interactive television program guide system, comprising:

user television equipment on which an interactive television program guide application having resources, a plurality of non-program-guide applications having resources, and [an] a program guide application program interface are at least partially implemented, wherein the user television equipment is configured so that the application program interface authenticates requests from the non-program-guide applications to use the resources.

120. (Amended) The system defined in claim 119 wherein the user television equipment is further configured so that the program guide application program interface determines access rights for the non-program-guide applications.

121. (Amended) A system comprising:
means for implementing at least one non-program-guide application on a server located on the Internet;

a television distribution facility that provides television programming;

user television equipment that receives the television programming from the television distribution facility and that has resources and on which [an] a program guide application program interface and an interactive television program guide application are at least partially implemented; and

means for using the program guide application program interface to coordinate access to the resources among the interactive television program guide application and the at least one non-program-guide application.

123. (Amended) A system comprising:

a server located on the Internet on which at least one non-program-guide application is implemented;

a television distribution facility that provides television programming; and

user television equipment that receives the television programming from the television distribution facility and that has resources and on which [an] a program guide application program interface and an interactive television program guide application are at least partially implemented, wherein the application program interface coordinates access to the resources among the interactive

television program guide application and the at least one non-program-guide application.

124. (Amended) A system in which there are multiple interconnected user television equipment devices in the home of a user and in which there are resources, comprising:

means for implementing an interactive television program guide application on a first user television equipment device; and

means for implementing at least one other application on a second user television equipment device that is connected to the first user television equipment device, wherein [an] a program guide application program interface is implemented on at least one of the first and second user television equipment devices, and wherein the application program interface coordinates access of the interactive television program guide application and the other application to the resources.

125. (Amended) A method for using a system in which there are multiple interconnected user television equipment devices in the home of a user and in which there are resources, comprising:

implementing an interactive television program guide application on a first user television equipment device; and

implementing at least one other application on a second user television equipment device that is connected to the first user television equipment device, wherein [an] a program guide application program interface is implemented on at least one of the first and second user television equipment devices, and wherein the application program interface coordinates access of the interactive television program guide application and the other application to the resources.